

E D I T O R I A L

Incentivizing Peer Review

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Since the 1700s, peer review has been a part of scientific publication. Quality peer reviews take extensive time and effort yet reviewers are not often compensated. This editorial announces the new offering of the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork (NCBTMB)-approved continuing education hours for our peer reviewers who complete timely reviews. Instructions to register as a peer reviewer and how to conduct a review are offered. Thank you to our 2016 and 2017 peer reviewers.

Peer review, having experts in the field evaluate the work of colleagues, has been a mainstay in scientific publication since the 1700s.⁽¹⁾ Quality peer review takes time and allows reviewers to be on the fore-front of science.⁽²⁾ Yet, often peer reviewers are not thanked or compensated for their work. With this editorial, we at the *International Journal of Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (IJTMB)*, hope to remedy that situation.

The *Journal* will now provide three research continuing education hours to our peer reviewers upon completion of their reviews. Other journals have offered access to their journal or a database of journals as an incentive;⁽³⁾ since the *IJTMB* is an open access journal, that does not work. Instead, we have collaborated with the Massage Therapy Foundation and the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork to offer three Research Continuing Education (3 CEs) hours for each peer-reviewed manuscript. To qualify to receive the CEs, reviewers must accept the offer to review, the reviews must be submitted within the allotted timeframe (usually 2–3 weeks), and the review must be complete with clear and constructive suggestions. In addition, we also ask that reviewers, in their comments to the authors, to state their comments and suggestions for revision in such a way that it would not demoralize the author of the manuscript or make them not want to provide revisions and/or submit to the *IJTMB* in the future. We have also simplified our peer review form to try to capture all the necessary information and still try to reduce the burden for reviewers.

Those who are interested in becoming a peer reviewer can sign up when subscribing to the *Journal* or within the “Profile” section (Figure 1). When signing up to become a reviewer, please include reviewing interests and areas of expertise (in box indicated by green arrow in Figure 1). This will help the editors find appropriate individuals for the articles which have been submitted. We need not only those with expertise in research, but also massage therapy practitioners to be peer reviewers. It should be noted, however, that reviewers are selected based on their credentials, experience in massage therapy, background in research methodology, and familiarity of the technique in the manuscript.

New reviewers may want some guidance on how to provide a complete peer review. Lovejoy, Revenson, and France provide an excellent primer on reviewing⁽²⁾ and Wiley Author Services offers a clear step by step guide (<https://authorservices.wiley.com/Reviewers/journal-reviewers/how-to-perform-a-peer-review/step-by-step-guide-to-reviewing-a-manuscript.html>) on how to review a manuscript, which may be of interest to some of our readers. At the *IJTMB*, we hope that the addition of offering CEs to peer reviewers will provide an inducement for new and current peer reviewers to produce high-quality and timely reviews.

THANK OUR PEER REVIEWERS FROM 2016–2017

We would like to thank all our peer reviewers who participated in offering their viewpoints on manuscripts in 2016 and into the summer of 2017 when this editorial was written. Thank you!

Katie Adams
Craig Atkinson
Derek Austin
John Balletto
Amanda Baskwill
Anita Boser
Jerrilyn Cambron

Instructions to register as peer reviewer:

Once you are in your profile...

Click the "Reviewer" box (blue arrow)

Then fill out the box (green arrow) with areas of expertise and interest. **For example I might list: Qualitative and mixed methods research, health promotion, practice based research, and case reports**

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 Identify reviewing interests (substantive areas and research methods):

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FIGURE 1. A screenshot of the subscription page for the IJTMB. The blue arrow indicates reviewer box to check to become a peer reviewer for the IJTMB; the green arrow indicates box for listing areas of expertise.

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